

Submission Date: 9/2/2022

Hearing Date: 9/20/2022

BILL: 18-22, Noise Control — Leaf Removal — Amendments

My name is Lynda DeWitt, and as a landscape professional, I strongly support Bill 18-22. I've been using battery-powered equipment, including blowers, since 2009, when I started Solar Mowing, a quiet, emission-free lawn care company based in Bethesda.

Now in our 14th year, we've never had an advertising budget. People seek us out; they're hungry for solutions to all the problems linked to gasoline-powered lawn equipment. Customers often tell me that they don't know we're there unless they see us through a window — a fact they also share with friends and neighbors.

I've heard the argument that electric leaf blowers can't do the job of their noisy counterparts. That's flat-out wrong. There's not been a job we couldn't do. We use hand-held blowers after we mow to clear debris from walkways and other hardscapes. And backpack blowers for leaf cleanups in the fall. We also use rakes when clearing beds so as not to disturb mulch.

Crews take enough batteries with them to last the day. We charge the batteries — with wind and solar energy — at the end of each day. Our most powerful, long-lasting battery takes 45 minutes to fully charge.

By shifting — finally and completely — to battery-powered lawn care equipment, we protect workers and children playing outside, and we don't interrupt people working and studying inside.

I'm tired of telling people outside Solar Mowing's service area that no, sorry, I can't recommend any other company who uses quiet equipment. It's past time to ensure all Montgomery County residents have safe and quiet lawn care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation.